



The Specimen Case and the Garden:

Preserving Complex Digital Objects, Sustaining Digital Projects

<https://digitalhumanities.osu.edu/>

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External Sponsors

The National Endowment for the Humanities
Institute of Museum and Library Services
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Team Members

Melanie Schlosser, OSU Libraries (co-director)
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Morag Boyd, OSU Libraries
Amy McCrory, OSU Libraries

Consultants

Laura Mandell, Miami Univ. of Ohio
Peter Robinson, Univ. of Birmingham, UK
Oya Rieger, Cornell Univ. Library

Our Place in The Digital Preservation Landscape



JISC Project Report:
Digitisation Programme: Preservation Study April 2009



The Digital Divide:
Assessing Organisations' Preparations for Digital Preservation



Case Studies in Digital Preservation



Digital Research:
Survey of Digital Preservation Practices in Canada



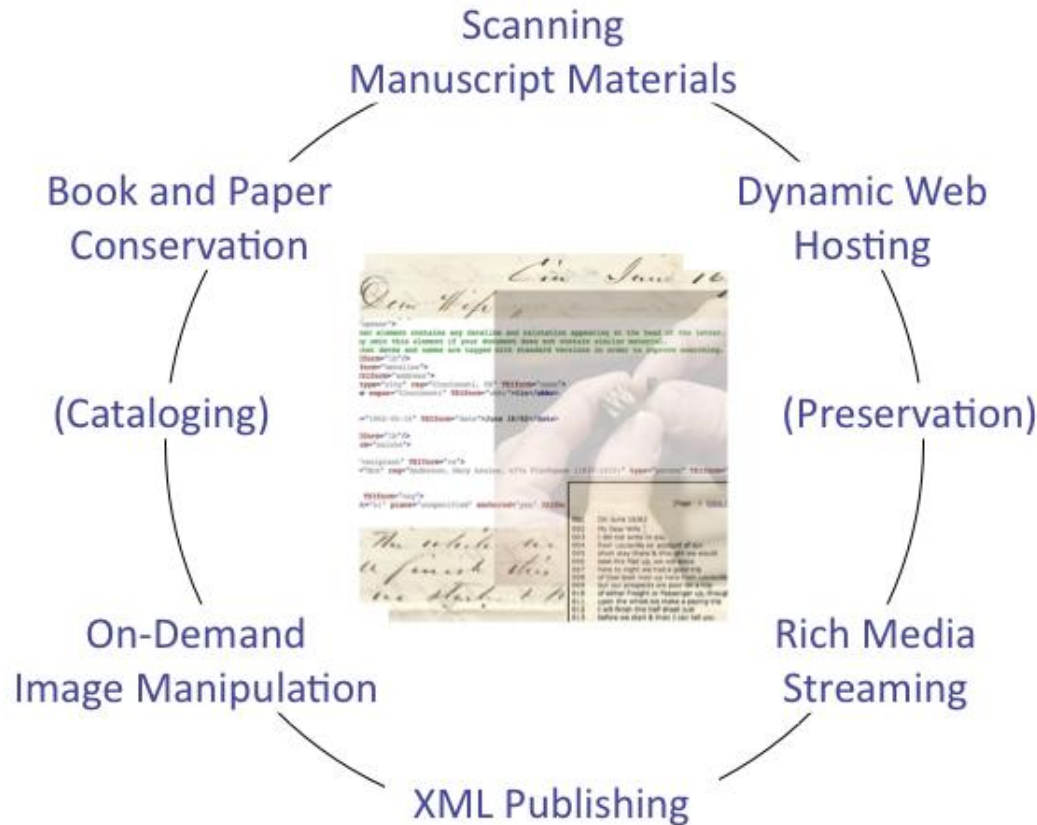
A Guide to Distributed Digital Preservation



A Faculty Perspective

Something Old, Something New, Everything Borrowed . . .

Innovation Often Requires
an Ad Hoc Network of Distributed
Assets, Infrastructures, Services, and Service Providers



Fragile Vessels

- Multimodal
- Distributed
- Recomposable (e.g., XML, XSLT)
- Dynamic
- Experimental
- Collaborative
- Artisanal
- Evolving



“How with this rage shall beauty hold a plea?”

- The thousand natural shocks that bits are heir to
- Changes in backend software
- Changes in backend hardware
- Technological obsolescence (e.g., support for file formats)
- Changes in policy/mission
- Institutional reorganization
- Changes in support and/or project personnel
 - Graduation, Moves, Retirement, Shuffling Off This Mortal Coil



Library perspective

- Our mission: supporting faculty research and teaching
- Our strategy: collect and preserve, mainly purchased and licensed resources (monographs, databases, special collections, etc.)

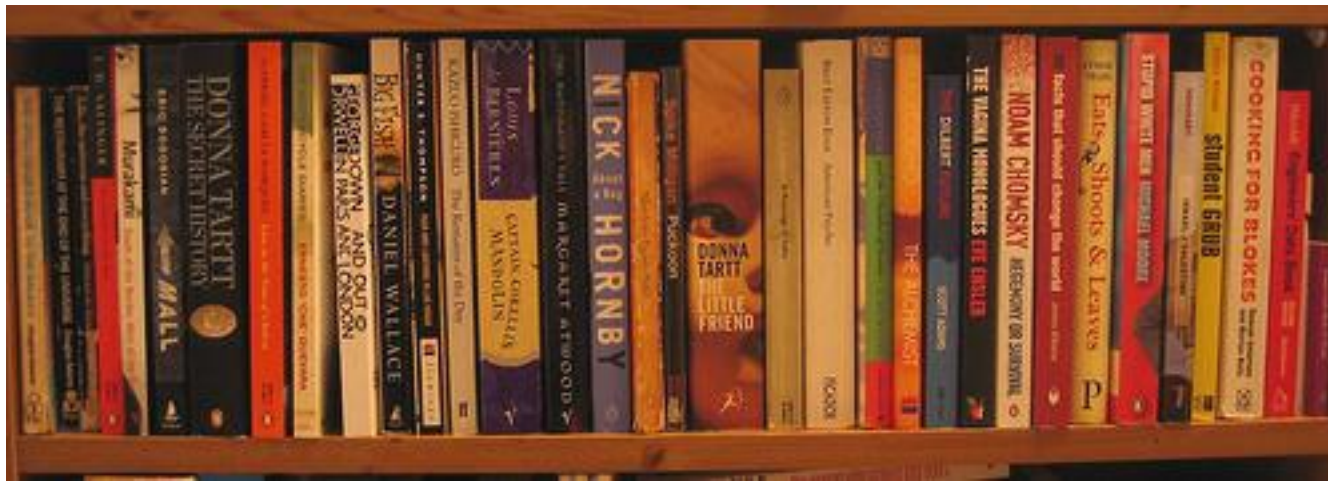


Image by **Phil Moore**, licensed under CC Attribution-NonCommercial-Sharealike 2.0 Generic (Flickr)

Library perspective

- Our methodology: standards and standardization
- Our limitation: few resources to create or support production environments for unique projects

```
050 00 PN98.E4|bM39 2001
050 00 PN98.E4|bM39 2001
082 00 801/.959/0285|221
100 1 McGann, Jerome J
245 10 Radiant textuality :|bliterature after the World Wide Web
      /|cJerome McGann
260   New York :|bPalgrave,|cc2001
300   xv, 272 p. ;|c22 cm
504   Includes bibliographical references (p. [259]-265) and
      index
650 0 Criticism|xData processing
650 0 Criticism, Textual|xData processing
650 0 Hypertext systems
```

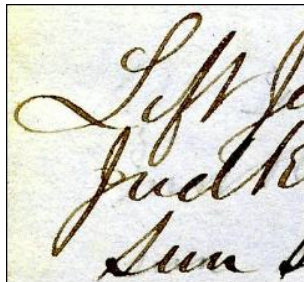
Library perspective

OUR ASSETS:

- expertise in description and preservation
- usually some sort of digital preservation environment (repository)
- the upshot: we can often work with you to add a preservation component to your project, or to add some institutional support to ongoing production environments



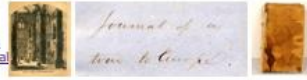
The Reliable Witnesses Project



[Page - 5 ([Click to open page image](#))]

0011 [\[>\]](#) New York, a May 7
0012 Left Jersey City dock in
0013 Judkins. Ret. The day w
0014 Sun shone—no white ca
0015 waves. All our baggage
0016 board, we went amid th
0017 on deck. The boat was c
0018 with passengers and fri
0019 Coe et ux (just married
0020 came over—Henry Clark
0021 & spoke to, on the dock

[Home](#)
[Link to the Journal](#) —
[Images of the MS Pages](#)
[Restoration of the Journal](#)
[Maps of Cox's Tour](#)



[Markup Guidelines](#)
[Guide to Cox's Hand](#)
[Acknowledgements](#)
[Comments and](#)
[Corrections](#)
[About the Editors](#)

Samuel Sullivan Cox's "Journal of a Tour to Europe" (1851)

This edition is still being developed and proofed. Please do not cite this preview until this notice is removed. The editors welcome suggestions and corrections (see link above).

About Samuel Cox's Journal



Samuel Sullivan Cox (1824–1889) served as a Democratic congressman in the United States House of Representatives from 1856 until his death, save for a few short interruptions, first representing his native Ohio (he was born in Zanesville) and then, from 1868 onward, his adopted state of New York. As a public servant, he is most remembered, even revered, for strengthening the Life-Saving Service (a precursor to the Coast Guard) and improving the working conditions of mail carriers. As a Democratic politician, his legacy is marred by his oft-assumed role as spokesperson for his party's resistance to abolition and emancipation during the years leading up to the Civil War. As an author, Cox published articles and books throughout his life on political and popular subjects, including six travel books.

In May 1851, however, Cox was a twenty-six-year-old Brown University graduate who had moved back to Ohio to practice law and had recently married (Peskin). On May 7, he and his wife Julia (née Buckingham, whom he married in October 1849), along with her brother Philo and a cousin Lucy, set sail on a long-delayed honeymoon tour of Europe and the Orient (Linsey 204–205).

The manuscript journal presented in this edition records Cox's experiences and reflections during that trip, but it also serves as a sketch pad for an expanded account of the voyage that Cox published the following year, *A Buckeye Abroad; or, Wanderings in Europe and in the Orient* (1852).

[Link to the textual edition of Cox's "Journal"](#)



If you have difficulty accessing any portion of this site due to incompatibility with adaptive technology, or if you need the information in an alternative format, please contact [H. Lewis Ulman](#).

About the Edition

This project consists of two related parts: the **project Web site**, which you are now viewing, contains ancillary materials that document the project or provide alternative access to some materials, such as images of the manuscript pages, that are also incorporated into the edition proper; the **textual edition**, accessible via the "Link to the Journal" above, contains an editorial introduction and several alternate views of the text of Cox's journal.

The current version is a preview release of the edition. 100% of the manuscript has been transcribed, encoded, and annotated to date. Currently, the editorial team is proofing, fact-checking, and editing for consistency.

The Editorial Team. Working in cooperation with the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at The Ohio State University, and in collaboration with Professor H. Lewis Ulman, principal editor, [a team of graduate and undergraduate students](#) began editing Cox's journal during two courses offered in the winter and spring of 2007.

Project Guidelines and Standards. The P4 Version of the Text Encoding Initiative Guidelines (TEI P4) informed the project's [markup guidelines](#). The editorial team also consulted the Modern Language Association's Committee on Scholarly Edition Guidelines as well as recommendations by various essays included in *Electronic Textual Editing* (MLA 2007). More detailed information about editorial methods can be found in the [Editorial Introduction](#) to the text of the Cox edition.

Navigating the Edition. Each page of this Web site contains an identical navigation bar at the top of the screen. The "Link to the Journal" in that navigation bar leads to the textual edition proper. Within each view of the journal, a link at the top of the page labeled "Home" leads back to this page; other links lead to other views of the journal.

```
</b> Left <name type="city"
'<name type="ship" reg="RM
<lem wit="Cox1851a">&nbsp;
<rdg wit="Cox1851b">&mdas
</app>
<name type="person" reg="Jud
<abbr expan="Captain">Capt
</b> Judkins. <abbr expan="R
</b> Sun shone&mdash;no whit
</b> waves. All our baggage
</b></seg>board, we went ami
</b> on deck. The boat was c
```

```
<!-- Additions by the author
<xml:template match="add[@pla
<xml:template match="add[@pla
<xml:template match="add[@pla
<!-- Recoverable deletions by
<xml:template match="del[@typ
<span class="cancel">
<xml:apply-templates/>
</span>
</xml:template>
<xml:template match="del[@typ
```

```
url += '&zoomStep=2';
url += '&help=zoomHelp.swf';
url += '&print=true';
url += '&maxZoom=800';
url += '&magnifier=400,100,3,true
url += '&modifier=cache%3don';
//document.write(url);
```

```
document.write('<center><OBJEC
codebase="http://download.macro
document.write(' ID="zoom" WID
document.write(' <PARAM NAME=
document.write(' <PARAM NAME=
NAME=bgcolor VALUE="#'+movieI
```



The Reliable Witnesses Project

September 2008–December 2009

- **SPRING '08:** Funded by NEH and IMLS as a Level II Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant
- **FALL '08:** Ulman “embedded” in OSU Library; Interviewed faculty, library professionals, and IT professionals
- **FALL '08-WINTER '09:** Consulted with colleagues from other institutions
- **November '09:** Submit report to NEH
<https://digitalhumanities.osu.edu/>
- **ONGOING:** Analyze local case studies projects
- **ONGOING:** Develop preservation and sustainability tools and workflows



The Specimen Case and The Garden

Two-pronged approach to *preservation* and *sustainability*:

- **Specimen case** - Create a 'dead' (lower functionality) archival version of a project. Preserves all the 'pieces' along with detailed description about how they fit together. Allows access to individual files, or future recreation of entire project.
- **Garden** - Transfer ownership of a project to the institution so it can outlast the involvement of the creator; sustain original production environment as long as desirable and possible; manage modifications.



The Specimen Case:

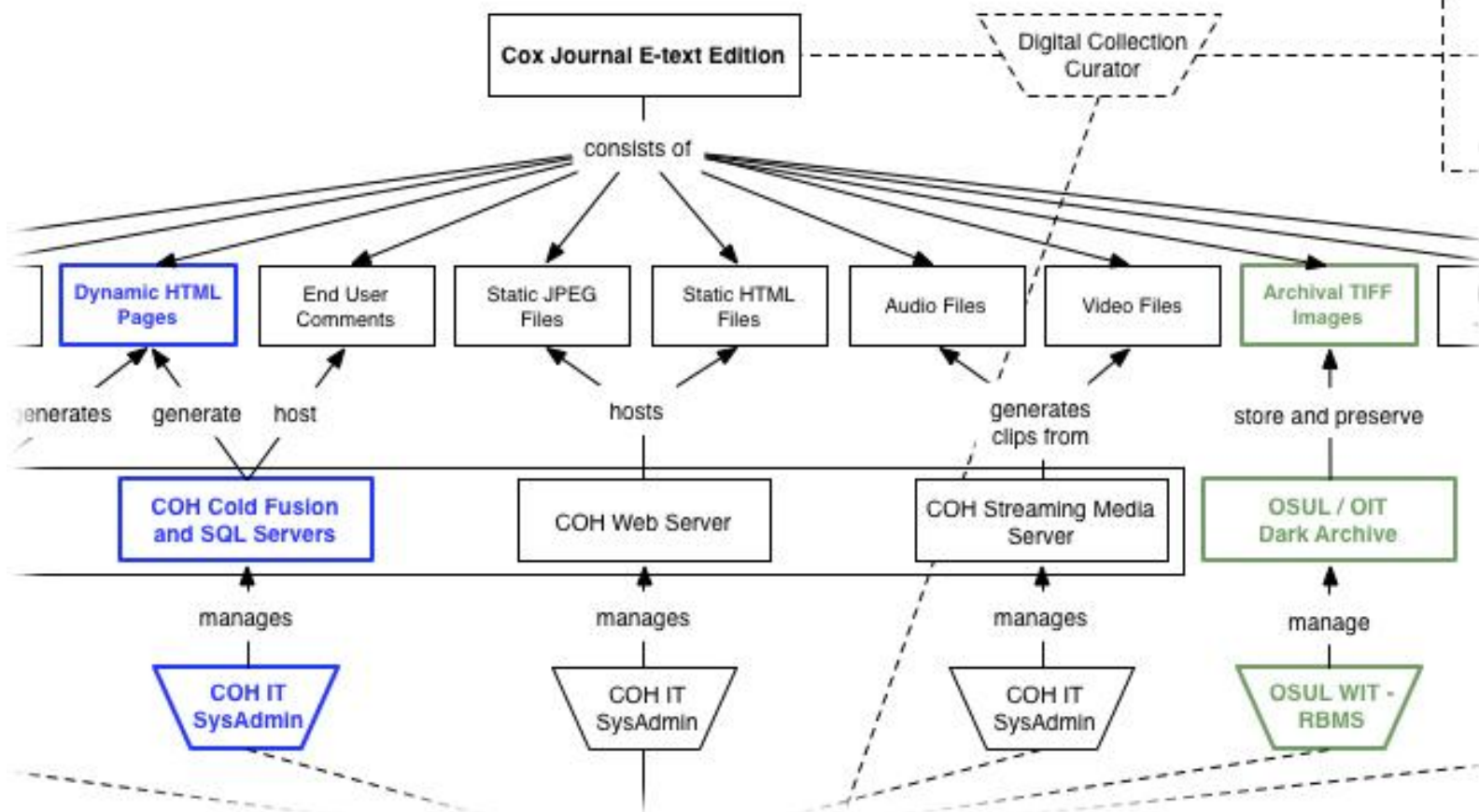
Preserving Complex Digital Objects

- Asked Louie to describe his project as **files** (JPG, TEI, XSLT, etc.), **systems** (software, hardware, etc.), and **semantic components** (journal text, contextual essays, maps, etc.)
- He created
 - ✧ a File Manifest,
 - ✧ a Content Manifest, and
 - ✧ a Semantic Map

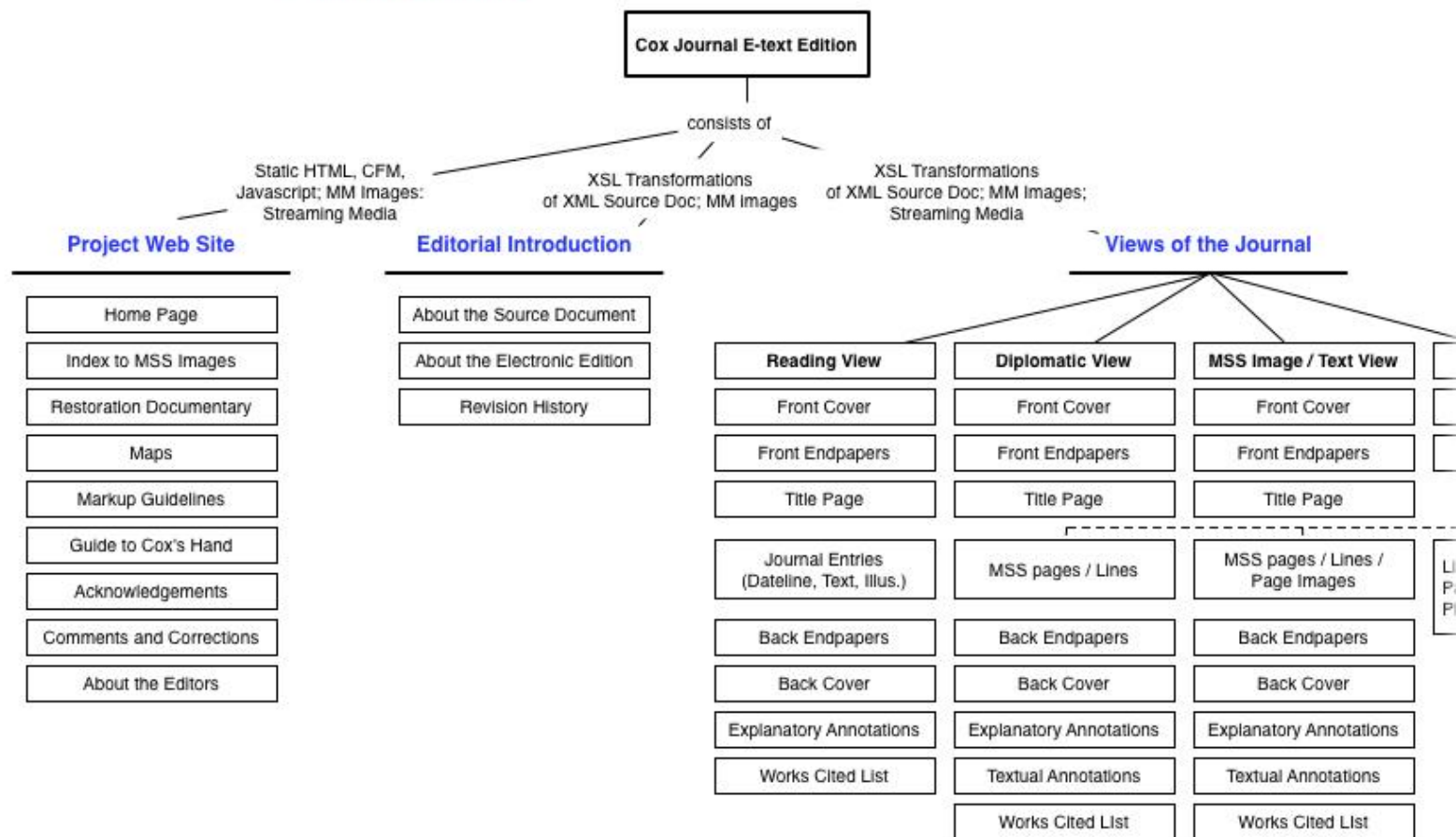


Image by Black Country Museums, CC Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 Generic (Flickr)

Graphical Content Manifest for Samuel Sullivan Cox's "Journal of a Tour to Europe" (1851)



Semantic Content Map for Samuel Sullivan Cox's "Journal of a Tour to Europe" (1851) as of Nov. 24, 2008



The Specimen Case:

Preserving Complex Digital Objects

- Translated Louie's descriptions into a high-level **METS** document
- **METS** is a Library of Congress XML standard used to describe complex digital objects for preservation and delivery
- Includes descriptive, administrative, preservation, and structural metadata



1979
1980
1981 <!--THIS STRUCTMAP DESCRIBES THE JOURNAL AS A SEQUENCE OF JOURNAL ENTRIES-->
1982
1983

1984 <mets:structMap ID="structID1" TYPE="logical">
1985 <mets:div ID="journalByDay" TYPE="journal" LABEL="The Journal of Samuel Cox: Entries">
1986

1987 <!--FRONT MATTER-->
1988

1989 <mets:div ID="frontMatter" TYPE="entry" LABEL="Front Matter">
1990 <mets:div TYPE="pageImages" LABEL="Manuscript Page Images">
1991 <mets:fptr>
1992 <mets:seq>
1993 <mets:area FILEID="fileSecID175"/>
1994 <mets:area FILEID="fileSecID176"/>
1995 <mets:area FILEID="fileSecID177"/>
1996 <mets:area FILEID="fileSecID178"/>
1997 </mets:seq>
1998 </mets:fptr>
1999 </mets:div>
2000 <mets:div TYPE="encodedText" LABEL="TEI-encoded text">
2001 <mets:fptr>
2002 <mets:area FILEID="fileSecID355" BEGIN="CoxFrontMatter"
2003 BETYPE="IDREF"/>
2004 </mets:fptr>
2005 </mets:div>
2006 <mets:div TYPE="audio" LABEL="Audio">
2007 <mets:fptr>
2008 <mets:area FILEID="fileSecID378"/>
2009 </mets:fptr>
2010 </mets:div>
2011 </mets:div>

The Specimen Case:

Preserving Complex Digital Objects

- Created an archival ‘bundle’ with
 - All project files
 - The METS document
 - A static HTML index page
- Archived it in our DSpace repository

KnowledgeBank

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER



The Specimen Case:

Preserving Complex Digital Objects

Archival version of Samuel Sullivan Cox's 'Journal of a Tour to Europe' (1851)

The production version of this electronic text edition can be accessed [here](#)

Recorded in a leather-bound notebook now held in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at The Ohio State University, Samuel Sullivan Cox's "Journal of a Tour to Europe" (1851)

Description

Click [here](#) for a [Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard \(METS\)](#) XML document describing the electronic text edition and contextual materials.

Page Images

Use the links below to access JPEG scanned page images of the original journal manuscript.

- [Page 7](#)



The Garden:

Sustaining Digital Projects' Production Environments

© 2005 by H. Lewis Ulman



The Digital Humanities Network: It Takes a University

Credit: OZinOH on Flickr



The Digital Humanities Network:

It Takes a University

- *CONNECT* faculty, students, librarians, and IT professionals who are creating or supporting digital humanities projects;
- *SUPPORT* their efforts by helping them develop robust, sustainable projects; and
- *CURATE* a set of completed projects that meet specific criteria, sustaining them beyond the involvement of their original creators.



<https://digitalhumanities.osu.edu/>

Thanks again to the National Endowment for the Humanities,
The Institute of Museum and Library Services, and our home departments of
The Ohio State University for their generous support of this project



ARTS AND SCIENCES



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where tradition and innovation meet

- Beowulf to Digital Studies and more.....
- Highest number of Ohio State Teaching Awards, more.....
- Home to Prominent Journals & Research Centers.....
- Nationally Recognized Creative Writing Program.....

